

**REMARKS**

The present application includes claims 1-8. Claims 1-8 have been rejected by the Examiner.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being unpatentable over WO 9965579 by Bond (hereinafter Bond).

However, the inventor of the Bond patent, Eugene Thomas Bond, is one of the two inventors of the pending claims. Additionally, the Bond patent was originally owned by NuGame and assigned to Aristocrat Leisure Industries Pty. Ltd., which has since changed its name to Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty Limited, just as the present application was originally owned by NuGame and assigned to Aristocrat Leisure Industries Pty, Ltd., which has since changed its name to Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty Limited. The Bond application claims priority to U.S. provisional application no. 60/089,654, filed on June 17, 1998. The present application claims priority to a U.S. provisional application no. 60/090,514, filed on June 24, 1998.

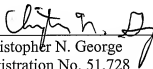
According to MPEP 706.02(1)(1), subject matter which was prior art via 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention if that subject matter and the claimed invention "were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person." Therefore, the Bond reference does not serve as prior art to the present application under 102(e), as both the Bond reference and the present application were under common ownership or obligation of ownership at the time of invention of the pending claims.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-8 should be allowable over the art of record.

**CONCLUSION**

The Applicant submits that the claims define allowable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the USPTO Deposit Account MHM, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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